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**Testimony  
submitted to the  
Education Committee**

**February 22, 2023**

**HB 6662 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING EDUCATION.**

**HB 6663 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ENGLISH LEARNERS' BILL OF RIGHTS.**

**SB 1028 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.**

**HB 6662 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING EDUCATION**

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education testified earlier this year supporting HB 5003 AAC Education Funding in Connecticut, which seeks to expedite the phase in of the bipartisan 10 year ECS grant. Students shouldn't have to wait to have a fully funded grant for their district's needs to provide a quality education.

The federal ESSER funding will cease come September 2024 and districts will need to have additional funding resources in place to continue support for accelerated learning due to the pandemic. The effects of the pandemic will not end as quickly as the federal funding ceases.

CABE supports the full appropriation of the special education excess cost reimbursement grant in FY 2023 BUT opposes the cap going forward. Typically, a district's budget is made up of 20-25% special education and any decrease in state funding causes a district to change its budget priorities after the budget has been approved.

CABE also opposes making the cap permanent on the health and welfare services for private pupils grant, RECS's and adult education grant.

**HB 6663 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ENGLISH LEARNERS' BILL OF RIGHTS.**

CABE believes implementation of the section of the bill dealing with translators would be difficult because of the numerous languages spoken by student and their parents and the lack of certified translators. From a report from the State Department of Education...In SY 2018-19, high school ELs collectively spoke 95 different native languages. However, 91 percent spoke one of only six of these languages, with 77 percent being Spanish speakers. The report continues...While students speaking multiple native languages brings rich linguistic and cultural diversity to districts, it can also be challenging to find or develop native-language resources and materials for those ELs who are

speakers of low incidence languages. This is particularly true as there may be few or no certified bilingual and/or English as a Second Language (ESL) staff who speak these languages in Connecticut.

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Performance/Research-Library/CLA-High-School-ELs-White-Paper-Final-09-29-2020-reformatted.pdf>

**SB 1028 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.**

CABE supports providing the legal authority to the Commissioner of Education to recommend changes to the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation and Support. The efforts of the working group of education organizations has taken the time to study changes and the Commissioner has been working along with them seeing the need for change. This collaborative effort will signal a better implementation going forward.

Thank you for your attention to these issues.